

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9562

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3017

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV SOPN CVIS

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES PRESS INQUIRY RE NIXON INTERVENTION IN
IMMIGRANT VISA CASE

1. THIS MESSAGE IS TO ALERT DEPARTMENT THAT SEVERAL CONGEN
OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED TELEPHONE QUERIES FROM FOX BUTTERFIELD,
HK BASED NYT CORRESPONDENT, WHO HAS SOUGHT BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ON STORY THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON PERSONALLY INTERVENED
SOMETIME DURING THE PERIOD 1969-1971 IN BEHALF OF AN UNNAMED
FEMALE IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANT. BUTTERFIELD ASKED IF WE
HAD ANY RECORD OF SUCH INTERVENTION AND IF WE COULD PROVIDE
HIM WITH A LISTING OF THE VISA ISSUING OFFICERS IN THIS PERIOD.
OUR REPLY WAS THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO COME UP WITH A COMPLETE
LISTING OF OFFICERS WITH JOB RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THIS PERIOD;
WE ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM DISCUSSING INDIVIDUAL VISA
CASES AND ANYWAY WE HAVE NO VISA RECORDS GOING BACK THAT FAR.

2. BUTTERFIELD CLAIMED THAT NIGHT OF MARCH 16 HIS SUPERIORS
HAD READ TO HIM FROM A FILE, (HE SURMISED AN FBI FILE)
WHICH INDICATED THAT J. EDGAR HOOVER HAD BEEN AWARE OF NIXON'S
INVOLVEMENT IN THE CASE AND HAD IN FACT, IN SOME WAY, BLACKMAILED
THE PRESIDENT. BUTTERFIELD NOTED THAT AT THIS POINT HIS QUERY
WAS PROBABLY SOMEWHAT ACADEMIC INASMUCH AS THE NYT BUREAU IN
WASHINGTON IS "WELL ALONG" ON THE STORY, IT WILL PROBABLY
SURFACE IN DETAIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE
THE CONSULATE GENERAL.
CROSS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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